



## AAICAMA FAQs Series

### Adoption Assistance Basic Information

#### 4. What is State (or state-funded) Adoption Assistance?

Answer: State Adoption Assistance is a state-run program for the adoption of children with special needs. If a child is not eligible for Federal, title IV-E Adoption Assistance, s/he may be eligible for State Adoption Assistance. State Adoption Assistance programs, like the Federal title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program, can provide financial assistance, medical benefits and support services as incentives to adoption.

For eligibility under the Federal programs, states must follow the Federal law that outlines eligibility and benefits. For State Adoption Assistance programs, states are free, within Constitutional principles, to establish their own eligibility criteria and benefits under the program. Some states apply a means test to determine if prospective adoptive families' resources are within state-set limits. State rate structures for adoption assistance maintenance payments vary by state, as do the post adoption support and Medicaid optional services.

Note: For information on each state's adoption assistance programs—both title IV-E and state—visit <http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt%5Fassistance/> (Child Welfare Information Gateway website, AAICAMA's webpage of each state's adoption assistance programs)

See Question 1 for each State's criteria for assessing special needs  
[http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt%5Fassistance/questions.cfm?quest\\_id=1](http://www.childwelfare.gov/adoption/adopt%5Fassistance/questions.cfm?quest_id=1)

U.S.C. refers to the United States Code  
C.F.R. refers to the Code of Federal Regulations